

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A surgical method comprising the steps of:

loading a suture strand through a flexible eyelet extending from a proximal end of an insert molded ribbed, non-threaded suture anchor, the flexible eyelet comprising a loop of suture, a portion of which has been insert molded into the suture anchor;

forming a hole in bone;

advancing, without turning, the insert molded ribbed, non-threaded suture anchor into the hole; and

securing tissue to the insert molded ribbed suture anchor by passing the suture strand through the tissue and tying a knot with suture strand to secure the tissue.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of surgical tissue plication comprising the steps of:

plicating a section of tissue with a length of suture;

preparing a hole in bone near the plicated tissue;

loading a leg of the length of suture through an eyelet of an insert molded ribbed suture anchor;

positioning the ribbed suture anchor on a plication driver, the leg of the length of suture exiting through a slot in the side of the plication driver; and

advancing without turning the insert molded ribbed, non-threaded suture anchor into the hole.

8. (Currently amended) A plication driver for a suture anchor, the driver comprising:

an enclosed cannulated shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a cannulated handle attached to the proximal end of the shaft;

a round cylindrical tapered recess formed in the distal end of the shaft; and

a slot ~~formed in~~ extending through two opposed regions of a wall of the enclosed cannulated shaft at the most distal end of the shaft, the slot opening into the shaft cannula and being continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft.

9. (Currently amended) An insert-molded anchor assembly comprising:

a hand driver having a cannulated shaft with an open recess on an end of the shaft, a slot ~~formed in~~ extending through two opposed regions of a wall of the shaft, the slot being continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft; and

an insert molded ribbed suture anchor comprising an anchor body molded around suture positioned in the recess on the end of the shaft, the anchor body comprising a plurality of adjacent truncated cones and a round cylindrical drive head as a proximal end, the anchor body further comprising a proximal end and having a loop of the insert molded suture extending from the proximal end in the form of an eyelet.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently amended) A plication driver for a suture anchor, the driver comprising:

an enclosed cannulated shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

a cannulated handle attached to the proximal end of the shaft;

a round cylindrical recess formed in the distal end of the shaft; and

a distally open-ended slot formed as a narrow, elongate opening formed axially through two opposed regions of a wall of the shaft adjacent the recess and opening into the shaft cannula, the slot being continuous with the recess formed in the distal end of the shaft, the slot having a closed end located along the shaft proximal to the recess.

Claims 12-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The insert-molded anchor assembly of claim 9, wherein the drive head is tapered.

Claims 18-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The insert-molded anchor assembly of claim 9, wherein a distal end of the anchor body is a truncated cone.

21. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein the proximal end of the insert molded ribbed, non-threaded suture anchor is tapered.

22. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein the insert molded ribbed suture anchor has a tapered proximal end.

23. (New) The insert-molded anchor assembly of claim 9, wherein the proximal end of the anchor body is tapered.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs [0035] of the specification as follows:

[0035] Driver 40 includes a cannulated shaft 42 with a cannulated handle 44. A cleat 46 is provided on the handle for securing suture attached to the suture loop on the suture anchor and passed through the cannulated shaft and handle. The distal tip 48 of cannulated shaft 42 provides a recess 50 which receives the proximal end of suture anchor 2. The outer diameter of the distal end of the driver preferably is less than or equal to the maximum outer diameter of the suture anchor. Driver 40 also features a slot ~~[[42]]~~ 52 which is continuous with recess 50.